

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. – 14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) A method of providing a user with options for accessing at least one of a plurality of received channels comprising at least one channel and a service channel of a digital television system, the method comprising the steps of:

generating a service menu for display on a display superimposed over a program transmitted on one of the received channels, the service menu comprising a list of menu items corresponding to a plurality of services available to a user;

generating, upon user selection of one of the listed services from the service menu, at least one subsidiary menu for display on the display superimposed over the program together with only the selected menu item corresponding to the selected one of the listed services to provide the user with a plurality of options for accessing at least one of the received channels,

wherein the selected menu item is originally displayed in a first location of the display, and wherein upon selection, the selected menu item remains in the first location of the display;

generating and displaying at least one interactive message superimposed over the program, wherein the interactive message requires a response from the user, and wherein the interactive message changes to the at least one of the received channels based on a positive reply from the user, wherein the service menu is displayed in inactive form when the at least one interactive message is displayed, and wherein the at least one interactive message is suppressed when the service menu is active; and

carrying out at least one payment step in response to a positive response to the interactive message from the user,

wherein interference with the program is minimal.

16. – 30. (Canceled)

31. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 15, wherein the list of services contained in the service menu is varied according to the subscription rights of the user.
32. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 15, wherein the list of services contained in the service menu is ordered according to the preferences of the user.
33. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 15, wherein control signals are received from a remote control handset.
34. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 33, wherein the service menu is generated for display on the display in response to the touch of a single dedicated key on the handset.
35. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 33, wherein the display of the list of services contained in the service menu is scrolled in response to commands received from navigation keys of the handset.
36. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 15, wherein the service menu is scrolled around a fixed bar displayed on the display.
37. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 36, wherein the fixed bar includes navigational arrows showing the possible directions of movement of the service menu.
38. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 15, wherein, upon user selection of one of the options from the subsidiary menu, a second subsidiary menu is generated for display on the display superimposed over the program together with the selected one of the listed services to provide the user with a plurality of further options for accessing at least one of the received channels.
39. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 15, wherein the channel displayed on the display is changed in response to the selection of a particular option from a subsidiary menu.

40. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 39, wherein from the received channels a service channel is accessed at a particular display screen within that service channel in dependence on the option chosen within a subsidiary menu.

41. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 15, wherein the menus contain regularly updated information received together with the program over which the menus are superimposed.

42. (Currently Amended) A decoder for receiving a plurality of channels in a digital television system, the plurality of channels comprising at least one channel and a service channel, the decoder comprising:

a control unit for generating a service menu for display on a display superimposed over a program transmitted on one of the received channels, the service menu comprising a list of menu items corresponding to a plurality of services available to a user;

wherein the control unit is arranged to generate, upon user selection of one of the listed services from the service menu, at least one subsidiary menu for display on the display superimposed over the program together with only the selected menu item corresponding to the selected one of the listed services to provide the user with a plurality of options for accessing at least one of the received channels, wherein the selected menu item is originally displayed in a first location of the display, and wherein upon selection, the selected menu item remains in the first location of the display,

wherein the control unit is arranged to generate at least one interactive message displayed superimposed over the program, wherein the interactive message requires a response from the user, and wherein the interactive message changes to the at least one of the received channels based on a positive reply from the user, wherein the service menu is displayed in inactive form when the at least one interactive message is displayed, and wherein the at least one interactive message is suppressed when the service menu is active,

wherein the decoder is configured to carry out at least one payment step in response to a positive response to the interactive message from the user, and

wherein interference with the program is minimal.

43. (Previously Presented) The decoder according to claim 42, wherein the control unit is arranged to vary the list of services contained in the service menu according to the subscription rights of the user.

44. (Previously Presented) The decoder according to claim 42, wherein the control unit is arranged to order the list of services contained in the service menu according to the preferences of the user.

45. (Previously Presented) The decoder according to claim 42, wherein the decoder comprises a receiver for receiving control signals from a remote control handset.

46. (Previously Presented) The decoder according to claim 45, wherein the control unit is arranged to generate the service menu for display on the display in response to the touch of a single dedicated key on the handset.

47. (Previously Presented) The decoder according to claim 45, wherein the control unit is arranged to scroll the display of the list of services contained in the service menu in response to commands received from navigation keys of the handset.

48. (Previously Presented) The decoder according to claim 47, wherein the control unit is arranged to scroll the service menu around a fixed bar displayed on the display.

49. (Previously Presented) The decoder according to claim 48, wherein the fixed bar includes navigational arrows showing the possible directions of movement of the service menu.

50. (Previously Presented) The decoder according to claim 42, wherein the control unit is arranged to generate, upon user selection of one of the options from the subsidiary menu, a second subsidiary menu for display on the display superimposed over the program together with the selected one of the listed services.

51. (Previously Presented) The decoder according to claim 42, wherein the decoder is arranged to change the channel displayed on the display in response to the selection of a particular option from a subsidiary menu.

52. (Previously Presented) The decoder according to claim 51, wherein the decoder is adapted to access from the received channels a service channel at a particular display screen within that service channel in dependence on the option chosen within a subsidiary menu.

53. (Previously Presented) The decoder according to claim 42, wherein the menus contain regularly updated information received together with the program over which the menus are superimposed.